SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1932

CONTENTS

	PAGE
National Health Insurance:	
INSURANCE MEDICAL PRACTICE: LECTURE TO STUDENTS BY DR. R. G. CHASE	21
CERTIFICATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION	23
INSURANCE MEDICAL PRACTICE AND APPROVED SOCIETIES	23
ASSOCIATION NOTICES:	
PROPOSED GOOLE, SELBY, AND THORNE DIVISION	23
SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS IN AID OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	23
BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD	24
TABLE OF DATES	25
MEETINGS OF BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS	25
CORRESPONDENCE:	
EARLY REFERENCES AND ALL THAT	26
NAVAL AND MILITARY APPOINTMENTS	26
VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS	27
DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES	27
ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE AND DIARY	28
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS	28

National Health Insurance

INSURANCE MEDICAL PRACTICE

Lecture to Students by Dr. R. G. Chase

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School on January 13th a lecture on "Insurance practice" was delivered to students and recently qualified medical men by Dr. R. G. CHASE, a member of the London Insurance and Panel Committees. Those attending the lecture numbered over a hundred, and Dr. Chase's concise and practical exposition was much appreciated. His exhibition, in rapid sequence, of the numerous cards and forms of various kinds which the insurance doctor is required to use moved his undergraduate audience to laughter, but Dr. Chase emphasized the need for treating this part of the practitioner's obligation with all due respect.

Dr. Chase began by pointing out that insurance practice did not differ from ordinary general practice. There was no question in insurance work of treating an insured patient in any different way from that in which a private patient of the same class would be treated. There was no element of charity in national insurance; it was a business contract. He gave some figures to illustrate the vast scale of insurance practice. The amount paid to insurance practitioners during 1930 was £6,447,330; the number of insured persons was 14,550,000, of whom 13 per cent. were in London. Insurance practice from the point of view of remuneration did not bear a bad relationship to the fees paid for patients of a similar class in private practice, and there were no bad debts, nor was there any trouble in collecting accounts. Every qualified doctor had a right to go on to the panel, with the exception of those who, for some breach of the Regulations, having been previously on the panel, had had their names removed. The authorities, both medical and lay, were very jealous for the reputation of the service, and once a man was removed from the panel he had extreme difficulty in getting back.

RANGE OF SERVICE

The range of service included all proper and necessary medical services other than those requiring special skill or experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners could not, as a class—that last phrase was important—reasonably be expected to possess. Those to whom he was speaking were about to go out into general practice with a knowledge of the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment, but the position of the older qualified men had to be remembered, men who had been in practice for many years, and who, perhaps, were not familiar with the latest methods. The range of service implied, not that which a particular man was capable of undertaking, but the kind of service of which general practitioners as a class were capable. A necessary qualification to this, however, was emergency treatment. In an emergency the practitioner might be called on for quite exceptional services. For example, in a case of laryngeal obstruction, it was the practitioner's duty, assuming, of course, that there was no possibility of getting the patient into skilled hands in time to save his life, to do a tracheotomy, whether he had special skill or not. Dr. Chase recalled the case of a doctor—a capable surgeon—who reported on the usual form that he had operated on a case of appendicitis which was of an urgent character. But he was not allowed to charge for the operation, because, although it was one beyond the skill commonly possessed by the general practitioner, he had reported it as an emergency.

With regard to insured patients in general, Dr. Chase gave it as his experience that if the practitioner played the game with them, they would play the game with him. In general, they were considerate to their doctor. Very commonly, however, they suffered from an inferiority complex, which manifested itself rather violently when they made a complaint. If the practitioner was out at the theatre in the evening when he was sent for, the remark would be, "If I had been a private patient he would have come"; or if the practitioner failed to take the patient's temperature, the remark again was, "If I had been a private patient it would have been done." It behoved one, therefore, to be very careful in making it clear that there was no difference in treatment or in other respects between one's private and one's insured patients.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SERVICE

Dr. Chase next gave a rough outline of the organization of national health insurance. The Minister of Health was at the head, and in his appointment were regional medical officers, through whom direct contact was obtained between the Minister and those working the insurance medical service. On medical matters the Minister obtained advice from the Insurance Acts Committee, representing all the different groups of Panel Committees of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Insurance Acts Committee now met in London about six times a year, and discussed all difficult points about the Regulations, if necessary, with the Minister. On the other side, there

was the Association of Insurance Committees ; these committees contained representatives of insured persons, medical practitioners, county councils, and the Ministry. The practitioner's agreement, which was a simple document, was made with the Insurance Committee of his area ; another document was the Terms of Service, uniform for the whole of the area covered by the Ministry of Health. There were two other agreements: those concerned with the allocation scheme and the distribution scheme. The former was a scheme for allocating patients to a particular doctor if they themselves had not taken the trouble to go upon any doctor's list, and the latter provided for the method of remunerating the doctor by the Insurance Committee. There was one other body to be remembered, with which he hoped those present would never come in contact—namely, the Medical Service Subcommittee of the Insurance Committee, which heard complaints against practitioners and against patients. It consisted of three doctors and three representatives of insured persons, with an independent chairman. The evidence given before that subcommittee was not on oath, but the proceedings were fairly stringent, and it might, in some cases, recommend either the infliction of a fine on the practitioner, amounting to as much as £100, or removal from the panel. The patient was rarely fined, because there was no method of obtaining the money from him.

REMUNERATION: RECORDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

The lecturer next described the manner in which the remuneration was calculated, and pointed out that the Insurance Committee was very strict in its inquiries if there was any suspicion of canvassing. If a practitioner's list increased much beyond the usual regular and expected rate, questions were likely to be asked. He then carried through, for the benefit of his audience, the case of a patient who came for the first time for treatment. This patient might state that he was an insured person, but had not got his medical card, which was his title to treatment. The practitioner was not entitled, in such circumstances, to charge for attendance without giving an official receipt for the money. This was given on a green form, which enabled the patient to obtain the return of his money if it was proved that he was entitled to treatment. When on the next occasion he brought his card, he would be added to the list. If, in a town, he lived more than two miles from the surgery, it would be not very expedient for the practitioner to accept him. If for that or any reason the practitioner did not accept him, he had three obligations: he must tell him of a near doctor to whom he could go, he must treat him for the time being, and he must notify the Insurance Committee of his refusal to accept. When the patient was accepted a form of medical record was provided, upon which was kept a report of all attendances and visits on account of that patient. Dr. Chase laid stress on the need for punctilious care in filling up these records. The regional medical officers inspected them periodically, and counted up the number of attendances and visits, from which the Ministry got an idea as to the amount of work done by the practitioner, and on that knowledge the remuneration of insurance practitioners was, in part, negotiated. It was a practitioner's duty to his colleagues, as well as to his patient, to fill up those records.

He next described the procedure with regard to prescriptions. For anything prescribed which was more than ordinarily expensive, the practitioner might be called upon to give an explanation. If, for example, insulin had to be given for a diabetic patient, it meant that the drug account would be increased, but it was only necessary for the practitioner to explain the circumstances. On the other hand, if a practitioner insisted on ordering expensive drugs when ordinary drugs would be equally efficacious, he was liable to be surcharged. Inquiry into prescribing was carried out by the Panel Committee in conjunction with the regional medical officer.

CERTIFICATION

On the subject of certification, Dr. Chase pointed out that although the intermediate certificates were given weekly, there was no need for them to be given on the same day in each week—an important point, because the approved societies were always trying, for their own convenience, to insist that certificates must be given on uniform days. He then supposed the patient to have developed some septic condition which necessitated an operation, which, though of a minor character, was regarded as beyond the skill of the ordinary practitioner. The patient could be told that he had a right to go to the hospital, or that the practitioner could perform the operation for him, but in that case the practitioner must be paid a fee. If the operation was performed by the practitioner, a form had to be sent to the Insurance Committee, to show that he was qualified to perform the service. The qualifications were either that he was on the staff of a hospital of more than fifty beds, that he had recently undertaken a course of instruction which covered this particular subject, or that he was recognized locally as being capable of doing such work. The fee for the services of the anaesthetist came out of the general funds of the panel ; the patient did not have to pay that. Perhaps the patient went later to a convalescent home, in which case a special certificate was given, extending over fourteen days, so that practically he could be three weeks away on the one certificate. If the patient developed some condition which necessitated dental attention and claimed dental benefit, it was the practitioner's business to give him a certificate for dental treatment, whereupon the society would give the patient a letter to a dentist on the panel, and the practitioner might be asked to attend and give the anaesthetic ; dental anaesthesia was not included in the benefit. With regard to the final certificate, Dr. Chase said that this must never be given to a patient who had already gone back to work. He also emphasized the great necessity of giving a certificate only after examination of the patient.

The case of pregnancy was a special one. It was the practitioner's business to determine whether the pregnant woman was fit to continue work, and this was decided on any complication she might have, on the nature of her work, and on any obstetric history that could be obtained. The pregnant woman had no right to sickness benefit on the sole ground of pregnancy ; to receive such benefit, she must be incapable of work. Attendance at a confinement was not an insurance service, and the practitioner could charge confinement fees. During the period of confinement the woman received maternity benefit, which was quite different from sickness benefit ; but at the end of four weeks, if she was still unfit, she could go on to sickness benefit.

Other points made by Dr. Chase included the responsibility of the practitioner for the acts of his assistants. If a message was not delivered to him by his servant it was his (the practitioner's) responsibility, for which he might be called to account. It was necessary for him to make arrangements to cover his absences. Very often in practice one practitioner would have a standing arrangement with a local colleague to act as deputy for him. He described the procedure in transferring from one list to another, with the passing on of all forms of medical record, also the arrangements for emergency treatment. Very often in a locality the insurance practitioners had an arrangement whereby they treated each other's emergencies without charge ; in other cases charges were made according to a definite laid-down scale of fees.

His final point was to re-emphasize the importance of the certificate. Each certificate was really a blank cheque for a certain amount, and the practitioner who was lax or careless in his certification was guilty of a very grave fault.

An opportunity was given for questions at the close of the lecture. Dr. REGINALD HILTON, who presided, cited the case of a patient who came "for a bottle of medicine," saying that he wanted a tonic, perhaps adding that he had been on the panel for a number of years and had never had any benefit, and thought he was entitled to a bottle of medicine. If the doctor refused, was he liable to have a complaint made against him on the ground that he had refused to give the patient a tonic? Dr. CHASE replied that the doctor himself must decide by examination whether the patient required medicine. It was of no use to take the patient's word for it ; the decision must rest entirely with the doctor in charge.

CERTIFICATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION

Disciplinary Action against Three Practitioners

The Medical Service Subcommittee for East Sussex has been investigating a complaint raised by an approved society as to the action of three medical practitioners in issuing a series of monthly certificates without seeing the patients. In each of the cases the patient was suffering from chronic disease, causing incapacity for work throughout the whole of the period, and it was admitted that the society had not sustained loss through the payment of benefit in circumstances in which it was not properly payable ; also that in none of the cases was there much, if any, prospect of active treatment arresting the disease ; nor was treatment required for alleviating pain or preventing suffering.

In the case of the first practitioner, the patient was an elderly woman suffering from advanced rheumatoid arthritis, and was confined to the house. The certificates, dating from November, 1930, to May, 1931, stated that the practitioner had examined the patient on the dates named, but, in fact, he had not seen her. He had, however, before issuing the certificates, satisfied himself by inquiry of the Queen's nurses that there had been no change in the patient's condition.

In the case of the second practitioner, the patient was a man, aged 57, suffering from carcinoma of the stomach. Five certificates were given between January and May, 1931, during which time the practitioner had not visited the patient, nor had the patient been to the surgery, but the practitioner had seen the patient walking about the village. The certificates were given to the patient's wife, who called at the surgery each month.

In the third case, the patient was a man, aged 58, suffering from hernia, haemorrhoids, epileptic fits at intervals, and other ailments. Eleven certificates were given between October, 1930, and July, 1931, for which the patient's wife called at the surgery.

The subcommittee found that the certificates were not accurate, because each of them stated that the practitioner had that day examined the patient when, in fact, he had not done so. The practitioners concerned in the second and third cases frankly admitted their fault. The attitude of the first practitioner was rather less satisfactory. He appeared to think that he could throw some of his responsibility on to the Queen's nurses, and that the breach was a purely technical one, a view to which the subcommittee could lend no countenance. The subcommittee further pointed out that all three practitioners were already availing themselves of the relaxation of the ordinary rule requiring weekly certificates, a relaxation which showed that provision was made for cases of chronic incapacity. The obligation imposed on the first practitioner to visit once a month a patient who was practically bed-ridden could not, in the subcommittee's view, be considered unduly onerous, and, apart from the necessity for issuing certificates, the subcommittee thought it might well be regarded as the duty of medical men to visit their patients when their condition required it. In the other two cases the practitioner was not under an obligation to call on the patient, but the patient was under an obligation to present himself at the surgery, and the practitioner should have insisted on his doing so. In the case of the second practitioner there might have been some feeling that attendance at the surgery would have an adverse effect on the patient's mental condition, for he had at times suffered from mental aberration ; moreover, this practitioner did actually see the patient within the period, though not in the professional sense.

The Insurance Committee, on the findings of its subcommittee, decided to inform each of the practitioners that such conduct on the part of any medical man, amounting to the issue of certificates containing false and misleading statements, was deserving of grave censure. The circumstances in which the certificates were issued had been considered, but it was held that they furnished no excuse for laxity. It was decided to recommend the Minister of Health to withhold a sum of ten guineas in the first case, five guineas in the second, and seven guineas in the third.

INSURANCE MEDICAL PRACTICE AND APPROVED SOCIETIES

The October Panel Conference expressed the opinion that steps should be taken to improve co-operation between the different parties to the National Health Insurance Acts with a view to removing grounds for criticism, and as a result the Insurance Acts Committee urged Panel Committees to endeavour to arrange for discussions to take place in their areas between representatives of approved societies, members of Insurance Committees, and insurance practitioners. Several highly successful conferences of this nature have already been held, notably in Rutland, in Rotherham, and in Derby ; and similar conferences have been arranged to take place in the immediate future in Warwickshire, Norwich, and Ayrshire for the purpose of discussing various questions regarding medical certification.

It is beginning to be realized that such joint meetings are the best means of securing mutual understanding and effective co-operation between those who share the responsibility for the work of national health insurance.

Association Notices

PROPOSED GOOLE, SELBY, AND THORNE DIVISION

Notice is hereby given by the Council of the Association of a proposal made by the Yorkshire Branch Council that a Goole, Selby, and Thorne Division of the Yorkshire Branch be formed, of area coterminous with the combined areas of the following:

The urban districts of Goole and Selby, and the rural districts of Goole, Selby, and Thorne.

Any member affected by the proposed change, and objecting thereto, is requested to write, giving the reason therefor, to the Medical Secretary by February 23rd, 1932.

ALFRED COX,
Medical Secretary.

January 19th, 1932.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS IN AID OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scholarships

The Council of the British Medical Association is prepared to receive applications for Research Scholarships as follows: an Ernest Hart Memorial Scholarship, of the value of £200 per annum, and three Research Scholarships, each of the value of £150 per annum. These Scholarships are given to candidates whom the Science Committee of the Association recommends as qualified to undertake research in any subject (including State Medicine) relating to the causation, prevention, or treatment of disease. Each Scholarship is tenable for one year, commencing on October 1st, 1932. A Scholar may be reappointed for not more than two additional terms. A Scholar is not necessarily required to devote the whole of his or her time to the work of research, but may hold a junior appointment at a university, medical school, or hospital, provided the duties of such appointment do not interfere with his work as a Scholar.

Grants

The Council of the British Medical Association is also prepared to receive applications for Grants for the assistance of research into the causation, treatment, or prevention of disease. Preference will be given, other things being equal, to members of the medical profession and to applicants who propose as subjects of investigation problems directly related to practical medicine.

Conditions of Award: Applications

Applications for Scholarships and Grants must be made not later than Saturday, May 21st, 1932, on the prescribed form, a copy of which will be supplied on application to the Medical Secretary of the Association, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. Applicants are required to furnish the names of three referees who are competent to speak as to their capacity for the research contemplated.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD

BATH, BRISTOL, AND SOMERSET BRANCH.—A meeting of the Bath, Bristol, and Somerset Branch will be held in the Physiological Lecture Theatre of the University of Bristol, on Wednesday, January 27th, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Eric Watson-Williams will show a cinematograph film entitled "Endoscopy." A discussion on the treatment of pregnancy and tuberculosis will be opened by Dr. J. S. Currie and Dr. J. R. Trist.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: COVENTRY DIVISION.—At the meeting of the Coventry Division to be held on Tuesday, February 2nd, Dr. A. Douglas Heath, physician to the skin department of the General Hospital, Birmingham, will give clinical demonstrations, with cases, on diseases of the skin.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: NUNEATON AND TAMWORTH DIVISION.—A meeting of the Nuneaton and Tamworth Division will be held at the Nuneaton General Hospital on Wednesday, February 10th. Medical cinematograph films will be demonstrated by the Kodak Company.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH: WEST BROMWICH DIVISION.—A meeting of the West Bromwich Division will be held at the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, Edward Street, West Bromwich, on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Local hospital provision under the Local Government Act, 1929; to discuss a suggestion of the Council that the Division should be transferred to the Staffordshire Branch, and become the West Bromwich and Smethwick Division; medical charities; Dr. Alfred Cox Testimonial Fund; Treasurer's Cup golf competition; Mr. L. P. Gamgee will read a paper on some of the manifestations of cholecystitis. Light refreshment by kind invitation of the chairman.

DERBYSHIRE BRANCH.—The inaugural meeting of the newly constituted Derbyshire Branch will be held in the Board Room of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary on Friday, January 29th, at 3 p.m. An invitation is extended to all practitioners residing in the county of Derby, whether members of the Association or not, and it is hoped there will be a large attendance. Agenda: Elect chairman of meeting; read notice of constitution of the Branch as from January 1st, 1932; to consider, and if so resolved, adopt (*a*) Rules of Organization of Branch, (*b*) Revised Ethical Rules; elect officers and a Branch Council; elect "associate members," if any; consider future meetings.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—The dinner of the Dundee Branch will be held on Wednesday, January 27th, at 7 p.m., in the Royal Hotel, Dundee. At 8.30 p.m. Dr. Levack will give an illustrated lecture on mountaineering. The dinner and lecture will be open to members, their ladies, and friends.

EDINBURGH BRANCH: EDINBURGH AND LEITH DIVISION.—A meeting of the Edinburgh and Leith Division will be held in the B.M.A. Scottish House, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. Business: Receive report of subcommittee on the relationship of the general practitioner to the health services; consider disposal of foregoing report; receive Division report for 1931 and report of representatives to the Annual Representative Meeting, 1931; consider suggestion to compile and issue a handbook of information useful to practitioners in Edinburgh; elect five representatives and deputy representatives to the Annual Representative Meeting, 1932; receive report of Golf Subcommittee; correspondence.

ESSEX BRANCH: NORTH-EAST ESSEX DIVISION.—A dinner, followed by a debate on a State Medical Service, will be held in the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, on Thursday, January 28th, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker for the motion, Mr. Somerville Hastings; speaker against the motion, Dr. W. J. O'Donovan, M.P.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: AYRSHIRE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Ayrshire Division will be held in Ayr County Hospital on Thursday, January 28th. Dr. Donald McIntyre (Glasgow) will give a lantern lecture on maternal disability following injuries in childbirth.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: GLASGOW DIVISION.—A general meeting of the Glasgow Division will be held in the Faculty Hall, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, on Monday, January 25th, at 8.30 p.m. Tea served at 8.15 p.m. Business: Annual report of Division; short address by Dr. A. J. Ballantyne on the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board Scheme; recent conference with hospital staffs; C.M.B. Rule E (1) *b*; appointment of Hospitals Advisory Medical Committee for Glasgow area, and fill one vacancy on Executive Committee.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: LANARKSHIRE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Lanarkshire Division will be held at the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 3.30 p.m. Dr. John Anderson will discuss sudden and unforeseen death.

HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH: EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DIVISION.—A meeting of the East Hertfordshire Division will be held at the County Hospital, Hertford, on Thursday, February 4th, at 2.45 p.m. Mr. Provis will read a paper on ante-natal care.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: BLACKPOOL DIVISION.—A meeting of the Blackpool Division will be held at the Metropole Hotel, Blackpool, on Wednesday, January 27th, at 8.30 p.m., when an address on medical aspects of nephritis will be given by Dr. J. W. McNee of University College Hospital, London. At 7.30 p.m. there will be a dinner (price 5s. 6d.); non-members are cordially invited to attend the dinner or the meeting, or both. Those proposing to attend are asked to notify the honorary secretary (Dr. E. W. Rees-Jones, Public Health Department, Sefton Street, Blackpool) by Tuesday, January 26th.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: HYDE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Hyde Division will be held at the Hyde Town Hall on Wednesday, February 10th, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. G. S. Gordon, president of Magdalen College, will give an address on lives of authors.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: MID-CHESHIRE DIVISION.—The annual general meeting of the Mid-Cheshire Division will be held in the Board Room, Altrincham General Hospital, on Sunday, January 24th, at 4 p.m. Tea provided at 3.45 p.m. Agenda: Report of Executive Committee; election of officers; address by Dr. John Wilkinson on recent research in pernicious anaemia.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: CITY DIVISION.—A meeting of the City Division will be held at the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, E., on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 9.30 p.m. Dr. P. Hamill will discuss the therapeutics of the circulatory disorders.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: FINCHLEY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Finchley Division will be held at the Finchley Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, February 16th, at 8.45 p.m. Dr. F. J. Poynton will give an address on rheumatoid arthritis.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: HENDON DIVISION.—A clinical evening will be held by the Hendon Division at the Hendon Cottage Hospital to-day (Friday, January 22nd), at 8.30 p.m.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH; KENSINGTON DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Kensington Division will be held on Tuesday, January 26th, at the Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, W.2, at 8.45 p.m., when Professor F. J. Browne will lecture on the toxaemias of pregnancy.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: MARYLEBONE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Marylebone Division, under the chairmanship of Sir StClair Thomson, will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W.1, on Wednesday, January 27th, at 8.30 p.m., to discuss "The mischiefs of motoring." Mr. Zachary Cope, Lord Howe, and others will take part. All members of the profession will be welcome.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: NORTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At the meeting of the North Middlesex Division to be held on Wednesday, February 3rd, Dr. Frank Mannington will open a discussion on the diagnosis of the acute abdomen in children.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—A meeting of the South Middlesex Division will be held at the Teddington and District Memorial Hospital on Thursday, February 4th, at 8.30 p.m., for general business. At 8.45 p.m. Dr. H. Gardiner-Hill (physician to St. Thomas's Hospital) will read a paper on the endocrine glands in relation to rheumatism.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: STRATFORD DIVISION.—A meeting of the Stratford Division will be held at the offices of the Gas Light and Coke Company, Ilford, on Tuesday, February 16th, at 9.15 p.m. Mr. Malcolm Donaldson will discuss ante-natal problems in general practice.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WESTMINSTER AND HOLBORN DIVISION.—The next meeting of the Westminster and Holborn Division will be held at the Hotel Washington, Curzon Street, W., on January 28th. There will be an informal dinner at 7.45 p.m. (price 5s., payable at the table). Evening dress optional. At 9.15 p.m. Dr. J. Stanley White will give an address on some recent aspects of endocrinology, illustrated by lantern slides.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: WOOLWICH DIVISION.—A clinical evening will be held at the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 8.45 p.m. Members of neighbouring Divisions and non-members are invited.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: BISHOP AUCKLAND DIVISION.—A meeting of the Bishop Auckland Division will be held at the Cottage Hospital, Bishop Auckland, on Friday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Mr. Hedley Whyte will give a lecture on surgical emergencies in general practice.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: SUNDERLAND DIVISION.—The annual meeting of the Sunderland Division will be held at the Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, on Tuesday, January 26th, at 8.15 p.m. Agenda: Annual report; election of officers.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH.—A clinical meeting of the Northern Counties of Scotland Branch will be held in the Inverness District Asylum on Thursday, January 28th, at 3.30 p.m. In view of the fact that Dr. T. C. Mackenzie retires shortly, it is hoped that the members of the Branch, by a large attendance, will show their appreciation of his past services. Agenda: Dr. Mackenzie, (1) Mental disorders of the climacteric and involutional periods (a short paper with illustrative cases); (2) A short series of surgical cases in mental hospital patients (five or six patients will be shown, and comments made by Dr. Mackenzie illustrating special features from the mental nature of the cases); Dr. MacWilliam, A group of typical mental defectives (the difference between, and distinction of, mental defectives from "the insane" will be emphasized).

SOUTHERN BRANCH: JERSEY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Jersey Division will be held at the General Hospital on Thursday, February 18th, at 8.30 p.m. Dr. R. N. McKinstry will read a paper on the possibilities of State medicine.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.—A clinical meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch will be held on Thursday, February 11th.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: EXETER DIVISION.—A meeting of the Exeter Division will be held in the Library of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on Thursday, February 4th, at 3.45 p.m. A discussion on enlarged prostate will be opened by Mr. Norman Lock, followed by Dr. A. Simey.

SUSSEX BRANCH: BRIGHTON DIVISION.—A conjoint meeting of the Brighton Division with the Sussex Law Society will be held on Thursday, January 28th.

SURREY BRANCH: REIGATE DIVISION.—A meeting of the Reigate Division will be held at the East Surrey Hospital on Tuesday, February 9th, at 8.45 p.m. Mr. Geoffrey Keynes will read a paper on the position of radium in surgery.

SUSSEX BRANCH: HASTINGS DIVISION.—A meeting of the Hastings Division will be held at the Buchanan Hospital on Tuesday, February 2nd, when Professor Louise McIlroy will give a lantern lecture on natal and neo-natal mortality. Dr. G. C. Anderson, Deputy Medical Secretary, will address the meeting on the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board Scheme.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: DEWSBURY DIVISION.—A meeting of the Dewsbury Division will be held at the Carlton Club on Friday, February 11th, preceded by supper at 8.30 p.m. Dr. Vining (Leeds) will discuss some clinical cases, illustrated by lantern slides.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: DONCASTER DIVISION.—A meeting of the Doncaster Division will be held at Parkinson's Café, High Street, Doncaster, on Thursday, February 11th, when Dr. H. B. Brackenbury, Chairman of Council, British Medical Association, will give a B.M.A. Lecture on the development of national health services. Dinner at 8 p.m. Those intending to be present are asked to notify the honorary secretary (6A, South Parade, Doncaster).

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: HALIFAX DIVISION.—A meeting of the Halifax Division will be held at the White Swan Hotel on Wednesday, February 3rd, at 8.30 p.m. Professor E. D. Pusey (Leeds) will discuss the present trend of cancer research and some recent advances.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT, AND CASTLEFORD DIVISION.—A meeting of the Wakefield, Pontefract, and Castleford Division will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Pontefract, on Thursday, February 4th, preceded by supper (3s.) at 7.45 p.m. Dr. Sinclair Miller (Harrogate) will give a lecture on diabetes.

TABLE OF DATES

Feb. 1, Mon.	Division Reports for 1931 due by this date.
Mar. 16, Wed.	Branch Reports for 1931 due by this date.
Mar. 26, Sat.	Nomination papers available at Head Office for election of 24 members of Council by grouped Branches in the British Isles; and 2 Public Health Service members of Council and 4 representatives of Public Health Service in Representative Body.
April 30, Sat.	Publication of Annual Report of Council in *Supplement*.
	Last day for receipt at Head Office of nominations: by a Division of not less than 3 members, for election of 24 members of Council by grouped Branches in the British Isles; and for election of 2 Public Health Service members of Council, and 4 representatives of Public Health Service in Representative Body.
May 14, Sat.	Publication in *Supplement* of nominations for election of 24 members of Council by grouped Branches in British Isles; 2 Public Health Service members of Council, and 4 representatives of Public Health Service in Representative Body. Voting papers posted from Head Office where there are contests.
May 17, Tues.	Motions by Divisions and Branches for A.R.M. agenda on matters of which 2 months' notice is required must be received at Head Office by this date.
May 21, Sat.	Publication in *Supplement* of motions by Divisions and Branches for A.R.M. on matters of which 2 months' notice must be given.
	Representatives and Deputy Representatives must be elected by this date.
	Last day for receipt at Head Office of voting papers for election, where there are contests, of 24 members of Council by grouped Branches in the British Isles; and 2 Public Health Service members of Council, and 4 representatives of Public Health Service in Representative Body.
June 4, Sat.	Publication in *Supplement* of results of election of members of Council by grouped Branches, and of members of Council and Representatives in Representative Body by Public Health Service members.
	Nomination papers available at Head Office for election of 12 members of Council by grouped Representatives (British Isles).
June 8, Wed.	Names of Representatives and Deputy Representatives must be received at Head Office by this date.
June 25, Sat.	Publication of Supplementary Report of Council in *Supplement*.
	Meetings of constituencies must be held between this date and July 21st, to instruct Representatives.
July 5, Tues.	Amendments and riders for inclusion in A.R.M. agenda must be received at Head Office by this date.
July 21, Thurs.	Annual Representative Meeting, British Medical Association House, London.
July 22, Fri.	Annual Representative Meeting.
July 23, Sat.	Annual Representative Meeting. Council.
	CENTENARY MEETING
July 24, Sun.	Pilgrimage to Worcester.
July 25, Mon.	Annual Representative Meeting and Annual General Meeting, British Medical Association House, London.
July 26, Tues.	Council.
	Adjourned Annual General Meeting and President's Address, Queen's Hall.
	President's reception, Albert Hall.
July 27, Wed.	Meetings of Sections, etc.
July 28, Thurs.	Meetings of Sections, etc.
	Centenary dinner.
July 29, Fri.	Meetings of Sections, etc.

ALFRED COX,
Medical Secretary.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: AYRSHIRE DIVISION

A meeting of the Ayrshire Division was held at Cuninghame Home, Irvine, on January 7th, when Dr. FREW was in the chair. Mr. JAMES TAYLOR (Glasgow) gave an interesting lecture on hip-joint disease, which was illustrated with some very fine lantern slides. He dealt with the three stages of the condition, with abscess formation, and with differential diagnosis and treatment. At the conclusion of the address questions were addressed to the lecturer, and some interesting points emerged from the answers. A vote of thanks was, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, accorded to Mr. Taylor for his address.

KENT BRANCH: ASHFORD DIVISION

A meeting of the Ashford Division was held at Ashford Hospital on December 11th, 1931. Dr. F. G. CHANDLER gave an address on the early diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis, illustrated by lantern slides, diagrams, and radiograms. The address was greatly appreciated by members and visitors present.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: PORTSMOUTH DIVISION

The sixth annual supper-dance of the Portsmouth Division took place at the Savoy Café, Southsea, on January 5th, when there was a large attendance, and was a highly successful affair.

The fourth scientific meeting of the session of the Portsmouth Division was held at the Queen's Hotel, Southsea, on January 14th, when the chairman, Dr. McASKIE, presided, and forty-three members were present, of whom thirty-three sat down to the preceding supper.

The honorary charities secretary (Dr. WARREN), who, with Dr. Mearns Fraser, organizes the social functions of the Division, announced that as a result of the annual dance there was £100 available for medical charities, and handed to the chairman a cheque for that amount. The meeting decided that this should be forwarded to the Medical Charities Fund. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Drs. Mearns Fraser and Warren for their successful conduction of the annual dance. Dr. WARREN, in his reply, informed members that the average subscription by medical men to their charities was only 2s. 6d. a head, whereas by the annual dance alone Portsmouth Division subscribed 10s. a head.

Dr. LEONARD FINDLAY gave an address, illustrated by lantern slides, on nutritional disease in infancy and its treatment. The speaker explained how the digestive system was easily upset, the effects of local and general agencies, and bacteriological considerations. Clinical classification at present was alone feasible: (*a*) wasting or marasmus, inanition, excess of fat in the diet, parenteral infections (sepsis, tuberculosis, or syphilis); (*b*) gastro-enteritis, local and parenteral origin (cause of toxic manifestations; toxin or loss of fluid); (*c*) ileocolitis or true infective diarrhoea. In the subsequent discussion, opened by Dr. OLIVE SHARP, Drs. HERN, MEARNS FRASER, and Mr. COWPER TAMPLIN took part. On the motion of Dr. MARIE GRIGSBY, seconded by Dr. CLARK, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Leonard Findlay for his address.

SURREY BRANCH: KINGSTON-ON-THAMES DIVISION

A meeting of the Kingston-on-Thames Division was held at the Surbiton Hospital on January 12th, when Dr. T. HANDFIELD BRUNSKILL was in the chair.

Dr. H. CAMERON read a paper on the diagnosis and treatment of some disorders in infancy and childhood characterized by persistent vomiting. He gave a most interesting and helpful account of the treatment of these disorders, with practical directions for making lactic acid, protein milk, malt stock, etc. In the subsequent discussion Drs. MACDONALD, BRUNSKILL, DANIEL, CLARKE, and GUYMER took part. On the motion of Major G. PETIT, a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Cameron with acclamation.

Correspondence

EARLY REFERENCES AND ALL THAT

SIR,—Don't we take Authority too seriously? We give it a capital letter, and consequently are self-impressed—and suppressed! How often do any of us attempt to analyse Authority? I have been having a shot at it, with considerable profit and amusement. I have exchanged letters with a D.M.O.; badinage with an R.M.O.; other letters with the Supreme Head of one of the greatest of the Great Approved Societies. It has been most illuminating.

How many of us, I wonder, realize that the R.M.2, which comes to us so irritatingly often, bearing the official address of the D.M.O., and having his name printed at the bottom, has been sent, quite often, not from that official address at all, but from the headquarters of an approved society; and that it has been filled in and sent out by a clerk, not of the Ministry, but of the approved society? I, a panel doctor, and consequently a suspected person, offer no comment; but I wonder what would happen to any of us who dealt similarly with official documents. Certainly I have always felt shy of replying, on personally confidential questions, to a reputedly official document which bore no signature.

Again, how many insured persons know that the alleged Ministry document, bearing a Ministry address, and carrying a Ministry doctor's name (printed as aforesaid), to wit, the R.M.3, may have come, and sometimes has come, direct from an approved society, and not, as it is made to appear, from the official ministerial address?

Is it generally known that "referring" is done—so far, at any rate, as one Great Approved Society is concerned—without any collaboration at all with the local officers of that society? No attempt is made to find out what sort of doctor has certified; what sort of record the insured person has. The business appears to be done on purely rule-of-thumb methods. This, of course, is denied. I have been assured that the most careful discrimination is exercised.

Very well. One of my patients was "signed on" on November 20th; her certificate was posted to London on November 21st; it was received there on November 23rd. The R.M.2 and R.M.3, bearing the official Ministry address and printed name of D.M.O., were sent from the office of the approved society on the same date, November 23rd—that is, by return of post. In the course of my correspondence with the head of that approved society I was informed that the sick visitor had called on the patient on November 24th, and the plea was actually put forward that the "reference" of November 23rd was in some way the outcome of the sick visitor's visit on November 24th. It seems unbelievable; but I have the documents in my possession.

I submit that Authority (Excessive Sickness Department) must be closely related to the Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*. Apparently the idea has got about that if it says something sufficiently often, and sufficiently loud, it will get away with it. *And it does!* But shall that amazing state of affairs continue? My practice for some time has been to see the bluff of Authority; and it has been working. It takes time, but it affords me amusement; and my "referred" patients get most careful and most sympathetic attention. I commend that practice to others.

Officially, D.M.O.'s and R.M.O's are semi-sacred creatures incapable of error. Panel doctors—good enough to treat sick persons and to sign death certificates—are untrustworthy, and consequently not good enough so far as sickness certification is concerned. In practice, the average R.M.O., even the average D.M.O., is a human creature when he forgets to play at being a bureaucrat; and it is probable that he makes no more mistakes than does the average panel doctor; but actually he is human, and so capable of error. This, though heretical, is true!—I am, etc.,

Walsall, Jan. 11th. FRANK G. LAYTON.

Naval and Military Appointments

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Surgeon Commander H. F. Briggs to R.N. Hospital, Portland.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander W. Flynn to the *Furious*.

Surgeon Lieutenants F. M. Duthie to the *Aphis*; H. L. Belcher to the *Sutton*.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Surgeon Lieutenant R. E. Gray to be Surgeon Lieutenant Commander.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Captain T. W. Davidson, from the seconded list, is restored to the establishment.

Captain G. de N. U. Somers relinquishes his temporary commission.

ROYAL AIR FORCE MEDICAL SERVICE

Wing Commander F. N. B. Smartt to Headquarters, Wessex Bombing Area, Andover.

Squadron Leaders F. J. Murphy to Aircraft Park, Lahore; C. A. Lindup to No. 4 Flying Training School, Abu Sueir; E. C. K. H. Foreman to R.A.F. Base, Malta; T. McClurkin to R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge.

Flight Lieutenants A. A. Townsend to No. 1 (Indian Wing) Station, Kohat; G. S. Strachan to No. 28 Squadron, Ambala.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Major D. H. Coats, R.A.M.C., to be Divisional Adjutant, 51st (Highland) Division, vice Major W. Campbell, R.A.M.C., vacated.

Captain J. G. E. Vachell, R.A.M.C., to be Divisional Adjutant, 49th (West Riding) Division, vice Major E. J. S. Bonnett, R.A.M.C., vacated.

Lieutenant C. de W. Kitcat to be Captain.

VACANCIES

BIRMINGHAM CITY.—Biochemist at Selly Oak Hospital.

BIRMINGHAM CITY MENTAL HOSPITAL.—Second A.M.O. and Deputy Medical Superintendent (male).

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL.—R.S.O.

BRADFORD ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Two H.S. (male, unmarried).

BRIGHTON: ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.—H.S. (male, unmarried).

BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) Two H.P. (2) Four H.S. (3) H.P. to Cancer Department. (4) H.S. to Ear, Nose, and Throat Department. (5) H.S. to Gynaecological and Skin Departments. (6) Obstetric H.S. (7) C.H.S. (8) Assistant H.S. and H.S.

CARNARVONSHIRE AND ANGLESEY INFIRMARY, Bangor.—J.H.S. (male).

CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE HEART AND LUNGS, Victoria Park, E.2.—H.P. (male).

DARLINGTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.—J.H.S. (male, unmarried).

DONCASTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—(1) H.P. (2) H.S. Males.

DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Two H.S.

EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Southwark, S.E.1.—H.P. (male).

GLASGOW CORPORATION. — Pathologist to Corporation General Hospitals.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL.—J.H.S. (male).

GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.—H.S.

HARROGATE GENERAL HOSPITAL.—H.P.

HARROGATE INFIRMARY.—Senior H.S.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1.—C.O. (male).

HOSTEL OF ST. LUKE, 14, Fitzroy Square, W.1.—R.M.O. (male).

LEICESTER: CITY MENTAL HOSPITAL, Humberstone.—Second A.R.M.O. (male, unmarried).

LIVERPOOL CITY.—R.A.M.O. (male) at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

LIVERPOOL EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.—Ophthalmic H.S.

LIVERPOOL: ST PAUL'S EYE HOSPITAL.—Hon. A.S.

LIVERPOOL STANLEY HOSPITAL.—(1) Male H.P. (2) Two Male H.S. (3) Female House Gynaecological Surgeon.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.—Lecturer in Radiology.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.—Senior A.M.O.'s at the following Hospitals: (1) St. Olave's, (2) St. Stephen's, (3) St. Charles's (4) St. Pancras, (5) St. James's, (6) Highgate, (7) Dulwich, (8) St. Mary Islington, (9) St. Peter's, Whitechapel.

LONDON HOSPITAL, E.1.—Medical First Assistant and Registrar.

LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL, Hampstead Road, N.W.1.—Medical Registrar.

MANCHESTER CITY.—(1) Assistant Tuberculosis Officer. (2) A.M.O. at Withington Hospital. (3) A.M.O. at Crumpsall Hospital and Institution.

MANCHESTER: RADIUM INSTITUTE.—A.M.O.

MEXBOROUGH: MONTAGU HOSPITAL.—J.H.S. (lady).

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: THE BABIES' HOSPITAL.—Non-resident M.O.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—(1) Hon. A.P. (2) Hon. A.S.

QUEEN MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR THE EAST END, Stratford, E.15.—(1) Hon. A.P. (2) Hon. A.S. Males.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL FOR CANCER, FISTULA, ETC., City Road, E.C.1.—H.S. (male).

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, S.E.1.—P. in Charge of O.P.

SHEFFIELD: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—H.S. and C.O. (female, unmarried).

SHEFFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Ophthalmic H.S.

STOURBRIDGE: CORBETT HOSPITAL.—Hon. Orthopaedic S.

WALTHAMSTOW EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Dental Surgeon.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road, W.6.—(1) Hon. Obstetric Registrar. (2) Non-resident C.O. (male). (3) Hon. Assistant Anaesthetist.

WESTERN OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.—Senior R.H.S.

WORCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY.—J.R.M.O.

YORK COUNTY HOSPITAL.—H.S. in Ear, Eye, Nose, and Throat Department.

CERTIFYING FACTORY SURGEONS.—The following vacant appointments are announced: Swinton (Lancs); Rhynie (Aberdeen); Llanaelhaiarn (Carnarvon); Guisborough (Yorks, N.R.). Applications to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

MEDICAL REFEREE under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, for the Districts of the Dewsbury and Leeds County Courts (Circuit No. 14). Applications to the Private Secretary, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, by February 6th.

This list is compiled from our advertisement columns, where full particulars are given. To ensure notice in this column advertisements must be received not later than the first post on Tuesday morning. Further unclassified vacancies will be found in the advertising pages.

APPOINTMENTS

CRISP, Thomas, M.D., Ch.B., Medical Referee under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1925, for the dictricts of Chorley, Lancaster, and Preston County Courts (Circuit No. 4).

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (Public Health Department).—J. H. Simmons, M.B., B.S., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Giles's Hospital; J. V. Carroll, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Park Hospital; V. C. Benson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer, Grove Park Hospital; R. Mowlem, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Assistant Medical Officer, Hammersmith Hospital; C. Muir, M.B., Ch.B., Assistant Medical Officer, King George V Sanatorium; W. H. Scobie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, Downs Hospital for Children; T. J. Evans, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer, St. Luke's Hospital, Lowestoft; J. C. Heather, M.B., B.S., Assistant Medical Officer, St. George-in-the-East; Miss E. L. Taylor Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., House-Physician, St. Olave's Hospital; Miss S. M. Stanley, M.B., B.S., House-Physician, St. Olave's Hospital; Miss J. E. M. White, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Clinical Assistant, St. Mary Abbots Hospital; W. P. Greenwood, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent, Bethnal Green Hospital; H. O. West, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Superintendent, Archway Hospital

---

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—Mon., Wed., and Fri., 5 p.m., Hunterian Lectures by Sir Arthur Keith: Malformations of the Human Body considered from a New Point of View.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

Section of Odontology.—Mon., 8 p.m. Mr. J. E. Curnock: Osteomyelitis of the Jaw—Spontaneous Fracture. Mr. E. C. Sprawson: Preliminary Investigation of the Influence of Raw Milk on Teeth and Lymphoid Tissue.

Section of Comparative Medicine.—Wed., 5 p.m. Discussion: *B. welchii* Infections in Animals and Man. To be opened by Major T. Dalling, followed by Mr. A. D. McEwan, Dr. Muriel Robertson, Mr. B. W. Williams, and Professor C. C. Okell.

Section of Urology.—Thurs., 8.30 p.m. Presidential Address by Mr. Ralph Thompson: Treatment of Urinary Calculus.

MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Thurs., 8.30 p.m. Dr. L. A. Weatherly: The Liberty of the Subject from the Medico-Legal Aspect. Followed by a discussion.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Lectures by Dr. Harley Williams: At Violet Melchett Infant Welfare Centre, Chelsea, Mon., 8.15 p.m.; at Eastern Hospital, London, E.9, Tues., 8.30 p.m.; at Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, Wed., 8.30 p.m., and Thurs., 9.30 a.m.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Mon., 8.30 p.m., Discussion: The Causation and Treatment of Essential Hypertension. Openers, Dr. Geoffrey Evans and Dr. G. Arbour Stephens.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE AND POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.—At *Medical Society of London*, 11, Chandos Street, W.1: Lectures on Endocrinology by Dr. W. Langdon Brown; Mon., 8.30 p.m., The Parathyroids and Calcium Metabolism; Fri., 8.30 p.m., The Adrenals and the Gonads. Lectures on Treatment: Wed., 4 p.m., Dr. B. T. Parsons-Smith, Heart Disease. *Metropolitan Hospital*, Kingsland Road, E.8: Mon., 2 p.m., Demonstration of Ward Cases by Dr. P. Hamill. *Royal Waterloo Hospital*, Waterloo Road, S.E.1.: Tues., 2.30 p.m., Demonstration by Mr. Lyle Cameron. *St. John's Hospital*, Leicester Square, W.C.2: Course in Dermatology; Clinics at 2 and 6 p.m.; Lectures, Tues. and Thurs., 5 p.m.

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE AND EAR HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—Wed. and Thurs., 1.30 p.m., Course in Methods of Examination and Diagnosis. Fri., 4 p.m., Mr. F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, Fractures of the Skull and Otology.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, W.C.2.—Sun., 10.45 a.m., Mr. E. D. D. Davis, The Diseases of the Ear from the Point of View of the General Practitioner; 11.45 a.m., Mr. Arthur O. Gray, Causes of Sterility and their Treatment.

CITY OF LONDON MATERNITY HOSPITAL, City Road, E.C.1.—Thurs., 5.30 p.m., Mr. A. L. Walker, Treatment of Contracted Pelvis.

GUY'S HOSPITAL (Physiological Theatre), S.E.—Mon., 5 p.m., Professor J. M. W. Morison, Respiratory Movements.

HAMPSTEAD GENERAL HOSPITAL, Haverstock Hill, N.W.3.—Wed., 4 p.m., Dr. J. Alison Glover, Tonsillitis.

HOSPITAL FOR EPILEPSY AND PARALYSIS, Maida Vale, W.9.—Thurs., 3 p.m., Dr. E. Blake Pritchard, Clinical Varieties of Muscular Weakness.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY.—At Friends House, Euston Road, N.W.1.—Wed., 3 p.m., Dr. E. Graham Howe, Dynamic Psychology and Purposive Behaviour; 4.30 p.m., Dr. H. Crichton-Miller, Thinking and Feeling Types.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Denmark Hill, S.E.5.—Thurs., 9 p.m., Dr. G. F. Still, Epilepsy in Children.

LONDON LIGHT AND ELECTRICAL CLINIC, 42, Ranelagh Road, S.W.1.—Wed., 8.30 p.m., Dr. C. B. Levick, Treatment of Disorders of the Heart.

LONDON SCHOOL OF DERMATOLOGY, St. John's Hospital, 49, Leicester Square, W.C.2.—Tues., 5 p.m., Dr. A. M. H. Gray, The Sarcoids. Thurs., 5 p.m., Dr. M. Sydney Thomson, Lichen Planus.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.—Mon., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Gynaecological Clinics, Operations. Tues., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Surgical, and Throat Clinics, Operations. Wed., 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical, Skin, and Eye Clinics, Operations. Thurs., 11.30 a.m., Medical, Surgical, Throat, and Children's Clinics, Operations. Fri., 10.30 a.m., Throat Clinics; 2.30 to 5 p.m., Medical and Surgical Clinics, Operations.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1.—Wed., 4 p.m., Dr. R. Fortescue Fox, The Rise of the Conception of Rheumatism as a Social Problem.

ROYAL NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Holloway Road, N.7.—Tues., 3.15 p.m., Mr. N. A. Jory, Earache.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL, City Road, E.C.—Thurs., 4.30 p.m., Dr. Cuthbert Dukes, Pathology of Fistula and Fissure.

ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL FOR STONE, 10, Henrietta Street, W.C.2.—Wed., 3 p.m., Dr. John Roth, Modern Uro-Radiological Investigation.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON POST-GRADUATE ASSOCIATION, St. James's Hospital, Ouseley Road, Balham, S.W.—Wed., 4 p.m., Dr. C. E. Lakin, Demonstration of Medical Cases.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Gower Street, W.C.1.—Tues., 5 p.m., Dr. H. R. Ing, Chemotherapy.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, University Street, W.C.—Tues., 5.15 p.m., Dr. R. A. O'Brien, The Preparation, Testing, and Use of Antitoxin.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith.—Mon., 10 a.m., Genito-Urinary Operations, Gynaecological Wards, Skin Department; 11 a.m., Surgical Wards; 2 p.m., Surgical Wards, Medical, Surgical, Eye, and Gynaecological Out-patients. Tues., 10 a.m., Medical Ward Demonstration, Operations, Dental Department; 11 a.m., Throat Operations, Surgical Ward Demonstration; 2 p.m., Operations, Medical, Surgical, Throat Out-patients. Wed., 10 a.m., Children's Medical Out-patients, Medical Wards; 2 p.m., Gynaecological Operations, Medical, Surgical, and Eye Out-patients; 4.45 p.m., Venereal Diseases Demonstration. Thurs., 10 a.m., Neurological Department; 11.30 a.m., Fracture Demonstration; 2 p.m., Operations, Medical, Surgical, Eye, and Genito-Urinary Out-patients. Fri., 10 a.m., Medical Wards, Skin Department, Dental Department; 12 noon, Medical Lecture; 2 p.m., Operations, Medical, Surgical, and Throat Out-patients. Sat., 9 a.m., Throat Operations; 10 a.m., Medical Wards, Children's Medical Out-patients, Surgical Out-patients.

GLASGOW POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—At Faculty Hall, 242, St. Vincent Street: Tues., 4 p.m., Dr. D. K. Henderson, Modern Trends in Psychiatric Practice. At Eye Infirmary: Wed., 4.15 p.m., Mr. W. B. Inglis Pollock and Dr. H. S. Martyn, Eye Cases.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CLINICAL SCHOOL ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—Royal Infirmary: Mon. and Thurs., 10.30 a.m. Maternity Hospital: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Fri., 11.30 a.m.

MANCHESTER: ST. MARY'S HOSPITALS.—At Whitworth Street West Hospital: Fri., 4.15 p.m., Dr. Fletcher Shaw and Dr. J. W. Bride, Ante-natal Demonstrations.

British Medical Association

OFFICES, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE
TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1

Departments

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS (Financial Secretary and Business Manager. Telegrams: Articulate Westcent, London).

MEDICAL SECRETARY (Telegrams: Medisecra Westcent, London).

EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL (Telegrams: Aitiology Westcent, London).

Telephone numbers of British Medical Association and British Medical Journal, Museum 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864 (internal exchange, four lines).

SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 24361 Edinburgh.)

IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association

JANUARY

22 Fri. London: Committee on Private Practitioners and Treatment of Mental Illness, 2.15 p.m.

24 Sun. Mid-Cheshire Division: Board Room, Altrincham General Hospital, 4 p.m. Address by Dr. John Wilkinson.

25 Mon. Glasgow Division: Faculty Hall, 242, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, 8.30 p.m. Address by Dr. A. J. Ballantyne.

26 Tues. London: Central Ethical Committee, 2.15 p.m.
Kensington Division: Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington, W.2, 8.45 p.m. Lecture by Professor F. J. Browne.
Sunderland Division: Royal Infirmary, Sunderland, 8.15 p.m. Annual Meeting.

27 Wed. London: **Council**, 10 a.m.
Bath, Bristol, and Somerset Branch: Bristol.
Blackpool Division: Metropole Hotel, Blackpool, 8.30 p.m. Address by Dr. J. W. McNee. Dinner, 7.30 p.m.
Dundee Branch: Royal Hotel, Dundee. 7 p.m., Dinner. 8.30 p.m., Lecture by Dr. Levack.
Marylebone Division: 11, Chandos Street, W.1, 8.30 p.m.

28 Thurs. Ayrshire Division: Ayr County Hospital. Lantern Lecture by Dr. Donald McIntyre.
Brighton Division: Brighton. Conjoint Meeting with the Sussex Law Society.
North-East Essex Division: Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, 7.30 p.m. Dinner. Debate on State Medical Service: Speaker for, Mr. Somerville Hastings; Speaker against, Dr. J. W. O'Donovan, M.P.
Northern Counties of Scotland Branch: Inverness District Asylum, 3.30 p.m. Clinical Meeting. Papers by Dr. Mackenzie and Dr. MacWilliam.
Westminster and Holborn Division: Hotel Washington, Curzon Street, W., 9.15 p.m. Address by Dr. J. Stanley White. Informal Dinner, 7.45 p.m.

29 Fri. Bishop Auckland Division: Cottage Hospital, Bishop Auckland, 8 p.m. Lecture by Mr. Hedley Whyte.
Derbyshire Branch: Board Room, Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, 3 p.m. Inaugural Meeting.

FEBRUARY

2 Tues. London: Post Office Medical Officers Subcommittee, 2.15 p.m.
City Division: Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, E., 9.30 p.m. Paper by Dr. P. Hamill.
Coventry Division: Coventry. Clinical Demonstration by Dr. A. Douglas Heath.
Edinburgh and Leith Division: B.M.A. Scottish House, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, 8.15 p.m.
Hastings Division: Buchanan Hospital. Lantern Lecture by Professor Louise McIlroy. Address by Dr. G. C. Anderson.
West Bromwich Division: West Bromwich and District General Hospital, Edward Street, West Bromwich, 8.30 p.m. Paper by Mr. L. P. Gamgee.
Woolwich Division: Woolwich War Memorial Hospital, 8.45 p.m. Clinical Meeting.

3 Wed. London: Committee on Research into Causes and Treatment of Arthritis and Allied Conditions, 2.15 p.m.
Halifax Division: White Swan Hotel, 8.30 p.m. Paper by Dr. E. D. Pusey.

4 Thurs. London: Special Pathological Committee, 2.30 p.m.

5 Fri. London: Mental Deficiency Drafting Subcommittee, 2.15 p.m.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 9s., which sum should be forwarded with the notice not later than the first post on Tuesday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

DEATH

GREVES.—On January 12th, following an operation, Edwin Hyla Greves, M.D., F.R.C.P., of Rodney House, Bournemouth.

Printed and published by the British Medical Association, at their Office, Tavistock Square, in the Parish of St. Pancras, in the County of London.